Meeple Chitchat Community - Code of Conduct

Board games bring people together, and so does this community. With over 500 members from different backgrounds, it's important that we keep this space friendly, respectful, and focused on board gaming.

These guidelines help ensure that:

✔ Everyone feels welcome, no matter their experience level.

✔ Conversations stay enjoyable, constructive, and on-topic.

✔ Disagreements happen respectfully, without hostility.

✔ Moderation is clear and fair, so the group runs smoothly.

By being here, you agree to follow these guidelines. Let's make this a great space for all board game lovers!

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1. Be Respectful

We want a community where everyone feels welcome. That means:

- Respectful Conversations – Discuss, debate, and disagree. Avoid personal attacks, name-calling, or general hostility.
- No Harassment – No form of bullying, bigotry, hate speech, discrimination, or targeted harassment (public or private) will be tolerated. It will lead to a warning, and eventual removal.
- Avoid Trolling: Don't derail conversations just to get a reaction.
- Jokes and Memes – No offensive, sexist, or mean-spirited humor.
- If a conversation is getting heated, consider taking a step back and flag an admin if warranted. They can step in to de-escalate. If another party wishes to disengage, please respect that and refrain from mentioning or tagging them
- This is a place to have discussions in a group socially. Before moving any conversation to a private chat ensure that this shift is welcomed by both parties. Unwelcome or unsolicited DMs will be considered harassment if a complaint is received.

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2. Stay on topic

This group is for board games and related discussions:

✔ Always Allowed: Board Game rules, mechanics, personal experiences, recommendations, strategies, and collections.

✔ Board Game-Linked Topics: Adjacent Broader discussions (e.g., geopolitics in games, industry controversies etc) could start here but will be moved to the Deep Dive group for in-depth discussions. You can move it yourself , or an admin may ask you to shift the discussion. Please be respectful and considerate when asking for a conversation to shift.

❌ No Spam/Promotions/Sales: We don't allow game sales or trades here, but we provide links to groups where you can.

❌ Random topics: General politics, tech, finance, memes etc

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3. Moderation and Rule Enforcement

Admins have volunteered to steward the community with the help of the rules above. Making sure this is a safe civil space is the responsibility of the entire community.

If you have a complaint, please raise it with any of the admins, who will make sure to address it whenever it is possible for them. Please feel free to get in touch with multiple admins in case any one is busy or unresponsive.

As a member of the community, If you see any actions that seems to be in violation of these guidelines, even if its not targeted towards you, please speak up to the admins. We will reach out to the actor and targeted person to hear them out and take things ahead. This will also let us understand the general sentiment in the community toward various behaviours and iteratively tweak our guidelines and therefore, responses.

The actions that can possibly be taken by the admins are as follows::

1️⃣ Reminder – A friendly nudge if it seems like an honest mistake.

2️⃣ Warning – If behavior continues.

3️⃣ Temporary or Permanent Removal – If problems persist or the issue is serious.

- In case of removal, reasons may not be shared with the group in general in case it could cause serious issues for the complainant. We request trusting the admins judgement on being able to decide on this on a case by case basis
- In the interest of fairness and consistency, most admin actions within Meeples Chitchat shall be subject to majority consensus within the team. In cases of time-sensitive decisions, a minority consensus shall suffice, to be subsequently reviewed by the rest of the team. This prevents unilateral and biased decisions.
- Admins will be attempting to handle nudges and warnings privately as far as possible to prevent spotlighting any one member. However complainants will be informed what actions/decisions were taken to ensure they feel heard.
- Admins are also members of this community and will be participating in discussions. Please assume their messages are personal views unless marked otherwise.

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4. Reporting Issues

✔ If you're involved in a disagreement, assume good intent and try to resolve it civilly.

✔ If you are harassed/feel unsafe, please contact multiple admins immediately. Get in touch even if you're not "sure" that it's a problem - we want everyone to feel and be safe.

We're all here for the love of board games—let's keep this a fun and inclusive space!

We take all reports seriously and endeavour to handle them fairly, confidentially, and with care. Our goal is to keep the community safe while ensuring no one is unfairly accused.

Reporting process

Step 1: Making a Report (Simple & Safe)

- If something makes you uncomfortable, you can report it. You don't need proof—just explain what happened as best as you can.
- You can report directly to any moderator (privately).
- If you're unsure, you can ask a friend to report on your behalf or message anonymously through a trusted person.
- We never require someone to confront the person they are reporting.

Step 2: What Happens Next?

- A moderator will listen without judgment and make note of your concerns.
- If immediate safety is at risk (e.g., threats, harassment), we may temporarily remove the accused person while we assess the situation.
- If it's a misunderstanding or boundary issue, we'll handle it discreetly and work toward a fair resolution.

Step 3: Fact-Finding & Next Steps

- We do not expect complainants to "prove" anything—but we do try to gather context fairly.
- If possible, moderators will check group chats, event logs, or talk to people who were present.
- The accused will get a fair chance to respond, unless the complainant prefers no direct engagement.
- If an incident happened privately (DMs, voice chats, or in-person), we will make a decision based on patterns, past behavior, and credibility rather than just "he said, she said."

Step 4: Consequences Based on Severity

1️⃣ Friendly Reminder (For minor, unintentional behavior): A private message explaining why something was inappropriate.
Example: Someone makes an offhand sexist joke but immediately understands why it was wrong.

2️⃣ Formal Warning (For repeated or serious boundary-crossing): A clear, documented warning to stop the behavior.
Example: Persistent DMs after being asked to stop, making multiple members uncomfortable.

3️⃣ Temporary Removal (For continued violations or serious issues): Removal from the group for a fixed period (e.g., 1–4 weeks) to reflect on behavior.
Example: Repeatedly disregarding boundaries, making offensive remarks, or persistent unwanted attention.

4️⃣ Permanent Ban (For severe harassment, threats, or assault): Immediate and final removal for serious harm to community safety.
Example: Physical assault, stalking, doxxing, or continued harassment despite warnings.

Appeals & Accountability

- If someone believes a decision was unfair, they can appeal privately to a different moderator.
- If a moderator mishandles a case, other moderators can step in to review.

No Retaliation & Handling False Reports

- Retaliation for reporting is NOT tolerated. If someone harasses or pressures a complainant, they will face consequences.
- False reports made in bad faith (deliberate attempts to target someone unfairly) will be reviewed and may result in a warning or removal.

List of admins

Abhishek Pisharody
Akshat Shrivastava
Karan KR
Mihir Shah
Mridul (SmartyPants)
Nikhil John
Phalgun Badrinath
Shivani (S)
Vaidehi Krishnan
Varunacharya
Vikas Munipalle

Date of last update: 31/03/2025